



KALIHI VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 16

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006 KALIHI REGIONAL DISTRICT PARK

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bill Woods-Bateman called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Merry Balatico, Wilton Ching, Anthony De Campo, Lisa Mitchell, Jory Watland, and Bill Woods-Bateman.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lance Bateman, Kanoa Bristol, and Chester Koga.

GUESTS: Representative Dennis Arakaki, Captain Bowers (Honolulu Fire Department), Pat Lee (Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project Public Involvement Team), Ken Nakamatsu (Director, Department of Human Resources -- Mayor Hannemann's Representative), Lisa Ginoza (Deputy Attorney General -- Governor Lingle's Representative), John Mizuno (Representative Dennis Arakaki's Office staff), Elisa Agpaoa (Councilmember Romy Cachola's Office staff), Al Canopin (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office staff); Major Kurk Kendro, Captain Moana Heu, Officer Antwan Stuart (Honolulu Police Department), Hazel Murakami, Pascual Dabis, James Rodrigues Sr., Elwin Spray (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD) -- Captain Bowers reported the following:

1. Statistics on Kalihi Station activity for April 2006: four structure fires, zero brush, two rubbish, zero vehicle, 79 medical emergencies, zero search and rescues, and ten miscellaneous calls. He reported no unusual incidents.
2. Fire Safety Tip: Prepare a fire escape plan. Map out escape routes. Designate a location outside of the house where everyone can meet. Know where the closest phone is located to call 911.

Captain Bowers was available to respond to questions and comments: in response to Murakami's question about the frequency of fire hydrant inspections, Bowers explained that the basic responsibility of hydrants is now with the Board of Water Supply (BWS), with HFD only occasionally checking. He suggested that BWS be called if anyone had specific concerns and that BWS would follow up.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD) – Major Kendro introduced himself as the Kalihi HPD district commander effective March 19, 2006, replacing Maj. Susan Ballard, who has been reassigned to the Training Division. He introduced his executive officer, Captain Moana Heu and also introduced Officer Antwan Stuart. Kendro reported having met with Chair Woods-Bateman and others with regard to the houseless issues as discussed at last month's meeting and later on this evening's agenda. He reported that monthly statistics will be provided later.

Major Kendro was available to answer questions and comments:

1. Rodrigues commented that the Kalihi Steet business district has a no-parking section for both morning and afternoon, with the officers effectively monitoring the morning but seemingly not checking in the afternoon, when cars park from Lani's Market on up the



valley. Major Kendro noted that the prior day was extremely busy, with many officers involved in a shooting case, but stated that the flow of traffic is a afternoon priority and that he would remind the duty lieutenant of this concern. Watland commented that the issue is of ongoing concern, with cars parked prior to the expiration on the tow-away hours.

2. Dabis asked about assistance to the parks; Major Kendro said that he would certainly provide assistance to the City's Parks Department if they made a request, but noted that, as with the parking issues above, all requests are dependent on manpower being available and the parking issue is a high priority since it involves traffic flow. Dabis commented that the park director was on vacation; Major Kendro said that if the officers are called, they would respond.
3. Balatico reported a problem with response, where she had trespassers on her property who were blocking her driveway, and that although she called, there was no response. Major Kendro expressed concern, noting that the failure may have been that the report was termed as a "blocked driveway" as opposed to "confrontation" – he said that intimidation is a concern and makes the issue a much more important issue than a parking problem. Chair Woods-Bateman noted that this issue involves an on-going concern of trespass to accommodate construction on an adjacent property (a right-of-way problem); with Major Kendro requesting to discuss the details directly with Balatico outside of the meeting.

OTHER COMMUNITY CONCERNS: No concerns were reported at this time.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Chair Woods-Bateman gave the Board's financial report: Operating balance of \$1077.16, Publicity balance of negative \$658.31 and Refreshment balance of \$120. Chair Woods-Bateman said that he had been told the accounts would be balanced out to allow for the continued videotaping (and 'Olelo broadcasting); he understood there were sufficient funds to allow for the May and June taping. Watland suggested spending the refreshment funds at the June meeting; Chair Woods-Bateman said that was possible but that he would wait to be assured that the videotaping bills were covered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 12, 2006 REGULAR MEETING – Chair Woods-Bateman noted that the April 12, 2006 guest attendance should be adjusted to correct "**James M. Rodrigues Sr.**" and to delete "Pascual Dabis" and asked for other corrections; there were no other corrections. **Watland moved and Mitchell seconded that the motion to approve regular Board meeting minutes of April 12, 2006 with the corrections to guest attendance. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0-0. Aye:** Balatico, Ching, De Campo, Mitchell, Watland, Woods-Bateman.

CHAIRS REPORT – Chair Woods-Bateman reported continuing concerns of importance to the Board are the wall collapse between properties of Numana and Emmeline Lance, the continuing excessive number of potholes on area streets, and the missed garbage bulk pickup.

BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

CITY CHARTER COMMISSION – BALLOT ISSUES IMPACTING NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD SYSTEM – Chair Woods-Bateman reported that the City Charter Commission has determined that no Neighborhood Boards or Neighborhood Commission issues will go forward to the voters. Watland referenced attention to the Honolulu Advertiser May 10 editorial "Some planned charter changes miss the mark" on the Charter Commission; Chair Woods-Bateman noted that the Charter Commission would not finish its report until August 2006.

71,000 OUTSTANDING WARRANTS – Chair Woods-Bateman pointed to the report at last month's meeting and commented that newspapers have since reported a 10,000 increase in un-served arrest

warrants. He said that the Board would be requesting an update, specifically 'why the increase' and 'what new activity has been occurring.'

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE – Chair Woods-Bateman reported a compromise bill to establish the beginnings of a Hawaii health care authority. It is being seen as a future vehicle to a state policy and action towards universal health care via future legislative action.

HONOLULU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT – Pat Lee represented the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project, distributed printed material, including a map, on the plans for the project and public involvement, and was available to answer questions.

Lee discussed the four proposed alternatives for the 25-mile corridor -- and general station locations -- and said that he will continue to meet with communities. The four alternatives: 1) no build, 2) enhanced bus system, 3) managed lane, and 4) fixed guide way. He reported that the next step is to consider cost and environmental issues with regard to community suggestions, especially on alternative alignments and station locations. He asked that those interested in the process could also contact the high-capacity transit corridor planning office at 566-2299 or visit www.honolulutransit.org. Lee noted that he was an independent consultant for Parsons Brinkerhoff and was soliciting public input for a locally preferred alternative mass transit system. Future meetings are planned for public input and Lee will keep the Board informed on these meetings. Lee also reported that engineers and planners would study all alternatives for an alternative mass transit system for Oahu including a study that would consider no alternative transit system. Included in the study will be the transit corridor, and the results will be presented to the City Council by the end of this year.

Lee discussed the basic alternative for the general Kalihi area would be either North King Street or Dillingham Boulevard, with the fixed guide way to be routed on Dillingham. Chair Woods-Bateman suggested that justification needed to be provided to support Dillingham since the general community preference would be to avoid the active business districts of Dillingham (and King) and to use Nimitz Highway, where few businesses actively face Nimitz. Lee explained that the issue of preferred alternatives had been focused down to the few routes shown at prior scoping meetings with the alternatives defined because of cost, anticipated revenue, transportation benefits and services. He noted that there were more details on the website and that more community meetings were being planned for the summer. Watland commented that past community meetings of the Oahu Traffic Committee had explored similar issues (and he was an active participant) and asked how those findings had been put into this project, suggesting that the Oahu Traffic Committee had made recommendations that were not being followed by this project. Lee said that the scoping meetings have been occurring, which have accepted prior studies and that the discussions are now including possible sittings of stations. Watland noted the suggestions included the Oahu Railway and Land Company's (OL&R) right of way (ROW), which would have gone down the Nimitz route. Chair Woods-Bateman suggested that the decisions appear to have been reached and asked if the Board were to take a position to have a least one alternative route using Nimitz Highway, what would be our procedure? Lee said that the issue can be discussed with project engineers using the web site as well as at the community meetings. Chair Woods-Bateman asked if the issue should be taken to the Council now, since the makai route could be considered as damaging to the community. Mitchell asked about the fuel to be used; Lee explained that the technology had not been chosen since one of the first decisions might be fixed rail or buses, so the type of fuel would be dependent on those types of decisions. Lee added that the general figure used in comparing public transit vs. private is from the American Automobile Association (AAA) this the private costs at \$5,000/year vs public transit of \$1,500/year. Watland suggested that other factors should be considered such as discouraging public employees from parking near their work sites. Lee said that the issue of public transit is much larger than one transit system, that there is no silver bullet that will solve everything, but the issue will require a number of steps; Watland explained the Oahu Transit Study was a more encompassing study.

Mitchell asked about the timeline; Lee said he anticipates the Council receiving the plan in December 2006. Chair Woods-Bateman said the board would consider adding the issue to the agenda in the next month or two.

SQUATTERS UNDER LIKELIKE HIGHWAY BRIDGE – Major Kendro presented material on the Hawaii trespass laws, with the assistance of Governor's Representative, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Ginoza. Kendro distributed copies of the Hawaii Revised Statutes 708-813 (Criminal Trespass first degree), 708-814 (Criminal Trespass second degree), 708-814.5 (Criminal Trespass – parks and recreation) and 708-815 (Simple Trespass). They discussed that trespass is more than just signage, enclosure or fencing, but they are exploring possible solutions. Ginoza noted the agency responsible is the State Department of Transportation (DOT) and not the Department of Land and Natural Resources, as has been generally suggested at public meetings; she said they are still exploring issues that might hinder prosecution of individuals. Chair Woods-Bateman asked about closed off of sleeping areas; Ginoza said it was being explored. Watland asked about social service providers; Kendro said that several have been asked but no one has been observed working with them. It appears that the outreach programs currently available only conduct their work during regular business hours and not when people actually use this and other makeshift shelter areas. Chair Woods-Bateman thanked Kendro and Ginoza for their efforts, adding the community realizes it's a complex issue.

GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE – Ginoza distributed a press release from Governor Lingle's office and reported on the following:

1. Kalihi Valley Homes (KVH) has a total of 375 units, with 45 units under construction and 60 units considered "out of commission" (being in need of lesser renovation than construction prior to being released for habitation).
2. Kuhio Park Terrace (KPT) has 33 units being worked on, with 59 currently ready for placement, and 24 having been referred to the management for repair. She will continue to report on occupancy status, but noted that there is a 15-week schedule to turn over damaged units. Watland asked how long the placement of residents into the 59 ready-to-occupy units would take and suggested the units might be considered for use as temporary sorter-term shelters.

Chair Woods-Bateman thanked Ginoza for attending the meeting.

LIKELIKE HIGHWAY ROAD SINKING, SEPARATION AND EROSION INTO KUPEHAU PARK – Chair Woods-Bateman noted the state Department of Transportation had reported last year that the repairs on Likelike Highway to the "sinking" section were going to start in January 2006 and expressed concern that there has been no repair nor update.

KALIHI STREET S-CURVE – Chair Woods-Bateman reported that an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) federal lawsuit on wheelchair sidewalk requirements is given as the reason for the blocking of planning for the correction to the Kalihi Street S-curve. Concerns were raised that the City administration was not going to actually study and improve standards knowing that there is a problem when there are lawsuit based on lack of health and safety. We will never get better policy if this in ongoing policy of this administration and council lack of intervention to establish needed policy and protections of the community.

KALIHI STREET TASK FORCE – PEDESTRIAN & MOTORIST HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS – Chair Woods-Bateman said that a community task force has been reactivated to study Kalihi transit issues, with an initial convening of the task force set for Gary Gill's office, 229 N. School Street, on May 17, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE – Ken Nakamatsu, Director of the City Department of Human Resources (DHR) distributed a Mayor's newsletter and reported on the following:

1. Privately owned roads can be repaired under specific guidelines where 10 or more homes are on the private road. Another alternative for repair of private roads is through designation of improvement district which requires a portion of the cost to be assessed to impacted property owners.
2. Grates at Kalihi Street and Makuahine Street were cleaned at the end of April; if any residents note of a need for cleaning of these or any grates, please contact the Department of Facilities Maintenance.
3. Regarding development on Numana Road – The construction is using adjacent property with permission of the property owners and in compliance with the permits.
4. Trees have been trimmed on Kam IV Road around posted bike signs.
5. The 'undriveable' conditions on Kalihi Street (due to construction) were on a portion of the street that is under State control and the City cannot use City funds to make repairs.
6. Improvements have been made to the baseball field lights at the Kalihi Valley District Park.

Nakamatsu was available for questions and comments:

1. Watland and Balatico commented that the Numana Road reports raised more questions about the site.
2. In response to a question about the S-curve status and proposed community-City meeting, Canopin reported that the administration is trying to get consensus from several departments before scheduling the community-City meeting. Chair Woods-Bateman reported that three plans have been drawn up in past years but that now the City cannot find the plans; he reported that since the land is now up for sale that there is an urgency to the City's committing to action. Chair Woods-Bateman requested that our councilmembers request action to acquire at least part of this parcel for the needed street widening.
3. Rodrigues reported that a sign at the intersection of Nihi and Merkle Streets (private streets) was falling down; with a discussion that he believes part of the failure of the sign pole is due to the re-direction of water flow after the installation of roadway fire hydrant (and the digging up of the road). Canopin said that the City had previously reported to the Councilmember Tam's office that as a private street, no City funds could be used in drainage repair. Rodrigues said that the water damage has been occurring (due to the water backing up) only since the City-installed fire hydrant has been placed.

COUNCILMEMBER TAM'S REPRESENTATIVE — Al Canopin represented Councilmember Rod Tam and discussed the following:

1. Privately owned roads cannot be repaired with public funds (at 3434 Kalihi Street), however Councilmember Tam is inquiring about access by emergency equipment and will report back on possible repair to permit access.
2. Councilmember Tam is meeting with the Corporation Counsel on a Council Resolution dealing with sidewalks.
3. The need for roadway repair at Kalani-Manu Kim was reported. The trash pickup in the area must be done over.

Chair Woods-Bateman thanked Canopin for his report.

COUNCILMEMBER CACHOLA'S REPRESENTATIVE — Elisa Agpaoa distributed the monthly report, highlighted a planned Weed and Seed Ohana Day, and was available for questions. Mitchell asked for suggestions on how the Board could take action on possible alternatives to the suggested transit

routes; Agpaoa will follow up. Chair Woods-Bateman asked Canopin to convey the same question to Councilmember Tam, suggesting that the planners should consider using Nimitz Highway.

Chair Woods-Bateman thanked Agpaoa for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS ARAKAKI – John Mizuno reported the successful conclusion of the legislative session and was available for questions. Chair Woods-Bateman discussed the newspaper report of Representative Arakaki's announcement of legislative retirement at the end of the term (November 2006) and offered his congratulations on behalf of the Board for his leadership and legislation successes.

Chair Woods-Bateman discussed the health care package

Chair Woods-Bateman recognized the arrival of Representative Arakaki and repeated congratulations and expressed his and the Board's, appreciation for the legislator's successful efforts in representing the Kalihi valley community for the past twenty years. Representative Arakaki thanked the Board and the community and distributed copies of a legislation summary.

SENATOR KIM — No representative was present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting of the Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board will be at 7 p.m. on June 14, 2006 at the Kalihi Valley District Park.

ADJOURNMENT- Hearing no objections, Chair Woods-Bateman adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m., 6-0-0. Aye: Balatico, Ching, De Campo, Mitchell, Watland, Woods-Bateman.

Submitted by Elwin Spray, Neighborhood Commission Office staff.

Reviewed by NHB Chair, William Woods-Bateman and submitted for publication as public draft.